

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Extension of Time

A request for a three month extension of the period for response to the office action mailed on October 5, 2005 is enclosed with this amendment. The extended period for response expires on April 5, 2006.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, 17 and 18 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 7 and 8, which each depend directly from claim 1, are amended to include all limitations of claim 1. Claims 12, 13, 17 and 18, which each depend directly from claim 18, are amended to include all limitations of claim 18. Thus, claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, 17 and 18 are now in allowable form.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, 14-16, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Furuya (US 6,863,411) in view of Hamilton (US 6,516,678). In response, claims 1, 11 and 20 are canceled, without prejudice. Claims 4, 5, 9 and 10 are amended to depend from allowable claim 2, and claim 6 depends from allowable claim 3, rendering their rejections moot. Claims 14, 15 and 19 are amended to depend from allowable claim 12, and claim 16 depends from allowable claim 13, rendering their rejections moot.

Conclusion

For these reasons, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment.

Appl. No. 10/814,812
Amdt. dated March 30, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 5, 2005

Atty. Ref. 89277.0025
Customer No. 26021

Any fees due with this response, including the fees for a three month extension of time, and the fees for five extra independent claims, may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: March 30, 2006

By: 
Troy M. Schmelzer
Registration No. 36,667
Attorney for Applicant(s)

500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900
Los Angeles, California 90071
Phone: 213-337-6700
Fax: 213-337-6701